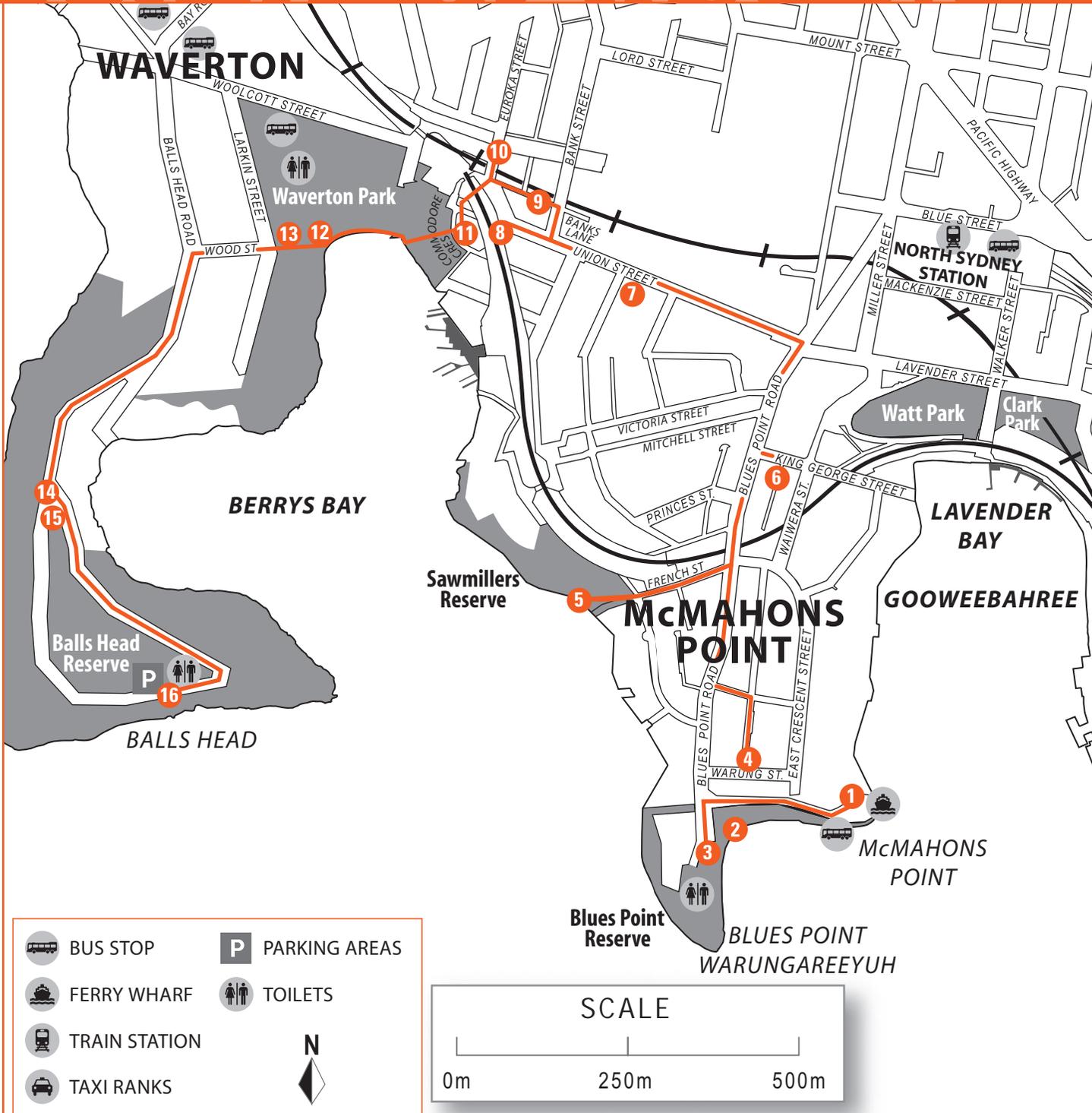


Historic Plaques Walk



McMAHONS POINT TO WAVERTON (APPROX 3.5KM)

Plaque checklist

- 1 Electric Tram Terminus
- 2 Blues Point Vehicular Ferry Landing
- 3 Billy Blue
- 4 Lloyd Rees Lookout
- 5 Sawmillers Reserve
- 6 Wellington & Sons
- 7 Lord Austin
- 8 Ivycliffe
- 9 Gannura Reserve
- 10 Henry Lawson
- 11 David Allan Earle
- 12 Joseph Bugler
- 13 Gordon Young
- 14 Jack Lang and Bertram Stevens
- 15 Annie Wyatt
- 16 Lieutenant Lidgbird Ball



PLAQUES WALK 1 – McMAHONS POINT TO WAVERTON (APPROX 3.5KM)

(ALLOW AT LEAST 2 HOURS. THERE ARE SEVERAL STEEP INCLINES AND SOME STEPS)

- Our walk begins at McMahon's Point Wharf where a plaque in the turning circle marks the site of the old **Electric Tram Terminus**, ① which was closed/fell into disuse after the Bridge opened in 1932.
- Head west to Blues Point Reserve. In the car park near the water's edge is the **Blues Point Vehicular Ferry Landing** plaque. ② The landing served Blues Point from 1842-1931. On the stone wall between the playground and toilet block is a plaque dedicated to former convict **Billy Blue** ③ after whom Blues Point is named.
- Head north up Blues Point Rd. Turn right into Parker St and right again into Middle St. At the end of Middle St is the **Lloyd Rees Lookout** ④ with views across the harbour.
- Retrace your steps back to Blues Point Rd. Continue up the road and turn left into French St and proceed down to Sawmiller's Reserve, a place for rest and reflection. On the curved stone wall, facing the harbour, a plaque marks the opening of **Sawmiller's Reserve** ⑤ on the site of the old Eaton's timber yard bought by North Sydney Council for public recreation.
- Retrace your steps to Blues Point Rd and continue north. On the other side of the street, at the corner with King George St, a plaque on the shop wall commemorates **Willington & Sons**, ⑥ a popular grocery store of the 1890s.
- Proceed north along Blues Point Rd, turn left into Union Street and on to the corner of Thomas St where a plaque commemorates **Lord Austin, designer of the Austin automobile**. ⑦
- Keep going down Union St to the small footbridge where a plaque marks the construction of an earlier overpass which, in 1893, provided access across the newly constructed rail line to the now demolished house **Ivycliffe**, ⑧ one of the first stone 'marine villas' constructed on the North Shore.
- Cross the road *carefully* to Banks St, opposite, and walk up to **Gannura Reserve** ⑨ where a plaque marks the creation of this pocket park on the site of an 1880s house and shop.
- Go down Banks Lane to Euroka St and turn right. A short way along, just beyond the 1930s railway bridge near the corner with Carr Street, a plaque commemorates **Henry Lawson**, ⑩ the poet, balladist and short story writer who did so much to define an Australian national identity from the 1880s. Lawson moved to North Sydney in the 1880s and lived in this street from 1914 to 1921. He died in 1922.
- Turn around and go back up Euroka St a short distance. Cross over *carefully* to Commodore Crescent. Walk around under the small rail overpass dating to 1893. Beyond on your left is a small reserve and plaque commemorating **David Allan Earle**, ⑪ a local architect and historian who was instrumental in researching local history and saving Don Bank cottage. The local history collection at Stanton Library is named in his honour.
- In front of this reserve are the Henry Lawson steps which will take you down to a grassy terraced area which was the site of Ivycliffe villa before its demolition in the 1930s. Follow the path straight down to the Waverton Park playing field below. (Those who have trouble negotiating the steep incline can use the access road to the left which will take you around the pedestrian entrance to the park at the bottom of John St.)
- Walk straight across the park along the fence fronting Berrys Bay to a plaque on a small plinth which commemorates the naming of the playing field in honour of North Sydney alderman **Joseph Bugler**. ⑫ This playing field, and the one behind it, were built upon resumed and reclaimed land granted by the NSW Government to North Sydney Council for the purposes of the public recreation in the 1940s.
- To the right of this plaque is a set of steps. Proceed to the top where there is a plaque marking the opening of the playing field below by the NSW Director of Physical Education **Gordon Young** ⑬ in 1963.
- Proceed up the path to the right and then head up the steps cut into the stone to the left just before the toilet block. Cross the grassed area to Wood St. The large house at the corner of Wood and Larkin St was home to painter Will Ashton in the 1920s. Head up Wood St to Balls Head Rd and turn left. A short distance down, Balls Head Drive veers off to the right. Cross the road *carefully* and proceed up Balls Head Drive. On your left, within a fenced off area, is an Aboriginal carving of a large fish or whale. Follow the road along to the entrance of Balls Head Reserve where two plaques commemorate the progressive opening of the reserve by NSW Premiers **Jack Lang and Bertram Stevens** ⑭ and the role played by **Annie Wyatt** ⑮ in the preservation of the area.
- Take the road to the left and head up towards the parking area in the reserve. On the left hand side of the road, across from the toilet block, is a plaque commemorating **Lieutenant Lidgbird Ball** ⑯ after whom the headland is named. A large interpretative sign is located a short distance around, near the car park.
- You can make your way back to Bay Road where there are bus stops and a regular train service at Waverton railway station.

WHY HISTORICAL PLAQUES?

North Sydney Council's Historical Plaque Program commemorates people, places and events that have contributed to the area's history and heritage. Historical plaques provide an interpretation of the local landscape and history of the built environment.

These self-guided walks are like historical orienteering. Your hunt for the historical plaque will take you along harbour foreshores, through bustling business districts and tranquil parks and gardens. Along the way you can discover North Sydney's many layers of history while taking in its wonderful views.

The North Shore Historical Society is an invaluable partner in North Sydney Council's Historical Plaque Program. The Society contributes financially and assists with research and plaque wording. New plaques are continually being installed.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Most plaques are bronze plates. Some are pictorial panels.

Plaques in the vicinity, but not included on the walk route, are sometimes marked on the map.

Public transport stops and toilets are marked.

Wear comfortable shoes and take a hat, sunglasses, sunblock and water.

All walks have uphill and downhill sections – a varied topography is one of North Sydney's key features. Allow time for this, as well as rest and drink stops.

Note: Walks 1, 2 & 3 have steps.

Walks can be done in reverse. Plan your walk to finish back at your car or public transport facility.

A database containing North Sydney's plaques can be viewed at www.photosau.com/StantonHeritage For further information on North Sydney Plaques, contact Historical Services on 9936 8400.

Further historical information and walks can be downloaded from the North Sydney Council website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au Click on Library and then North Sydney Heritage Centre. Walk North Sydney maps and other information for walkers are also available from the Council website.

If you are interested in learning more about the history of North Sydney, visit the North Sydney Heritage Centre, Level 1, Stanton Library, 234 Miller Street, Mon-Sat 1-5pm.